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### Gene-environment interactions involving functional variants: Results from the Breast Cancer Association Consortium

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# Gene-environment interactions involving functional variants: results from the Breast Cancer Association Consortium.

Myrto Barrdahl [1]<sup>id</sup>, Anja Rudolph[1]<sup>id</sup>, John L. Hopper [2], Melissa C. Southey [3], Annegien Broeks [4], Peter A. Fasching [5,6], Matthias W. Beckmann [5], Manuela Gago-Dominguez [7,8], J. Esteban Castela [9], Pascal Gu  nel [10], Th  r  se Truong [10], Stig E. Bojesen [11-13], Susan M. Gapstur [14], Mia M. Gaudet [14], Hermann Brenner [15-17], Volker Arndt [15], Hiltrud Brauch [17-19], Ute Hamann [20], Arto Mannermaa [21-23], Diether Lambrechts [24,25], Lynn Jongen [26], Dieter Flesch-Janys [27,28], Kathrin Thoenen [28], Fergus J. Couch [29], Graham G. Giles [30,31], Jacques Simard [32], Mark S. Goldberg [33,34], Jonine Figueroa [35,36], Kyriaki Michailidou [37,38], Manjeet K. Bolla [37], Joe Dennis [37], Qin Wang [37], Ursula Eilber [1], Sabine Behrens [1], Kamila Czene [39], Per Hall [39], Angela Cox [40], Simon Cross [41], Anthony Swerdlow [42,43], Minouk J. Schoemaker [43], Alison M. Dunning [44], Rudolf Kaaks [1], Paul D.P. Pharoah [37,44], Marjanka Schmidt [4,45], Montserrat Garcia-Closas [35], Douglas F. Easton [37, 44], Roger L. Milne [30,31], Jenny Chang-Claude [1,46]

[1] Division of Cancer Epidemiology, German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ), Im Neuenheimer Feld 581 Heidelberg, DE 69120, Germany

[2] Centre for Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Melbourne School of Population and Global health, The University of Melbourne, Level 3, 207 Bouverie Street, Melbourne, VIC, 3010, Australia

[3] Department of Pathology, The University of Melbourne, Melbourne, VIC, AUS 3010, Australia

[4] Division of Molecular Pathology, Netherlands Cancer Institute - Antoni van Leeuwenhoek hospital, Plesmanlaan 121, NL 1066 CX, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

[5] Department of Gynaecology and Obstetrics, University Hospital Erlangen, Friedrich-Alexander University Erlangen-Nuremberg, Comprehensive Cancer Center Erlangen-EMN, Universitaetsstrasse 21-23, DE D-91054, Erlangen, Germany

[6] David Geffen School of Medicine, Department of Medicine Division of Hematology and Oncology, University of California at Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA, USA

[7] Genomic Medicine Group, Galician Foundation of Genomic Medicine, Instituto de Investigaci  n Sanitaria de Santiago de Compostela (IDIS), Complejo Hospitalario

Universitario de Santiago, Servicio Galego de Saúde, SERGAS, Santiago De Compostela, Spain

[8] Moores Cancer Center, University of California San Diego, La Jolla, California, USA

[9] Oncology and Genetics Unit, Instituto de Investigación Sanitaria Galicia Sur (IISGS), Xerencia de Xestión Integrada de Vigo-SERGAS, Vigo, Spain

[10] CESP - Cancer and Environment team, INSERM U1018, Université Paris-Sud, Université Paris-Saclay, Villejuif, France

[11] Copenhagen General Population Study, Herlev and Gentofte Hospital, Copenhagen University Hospital, Herlev Ringvej 75, DK 2730, Herlev, Denmark

[12] Department of Clinical Biochemistry, Herlev and Gentofte Hospital, Copenhagen University Hospital, DK 2730, Herlev, Denmark

[13] Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences, University of Copenhagen, Nørregade 10, DK-1165, Copenhagen, Denmark

[14] Epidemiology Research Program, American Cancer Society, 250 Williams St NW, Atlanta, GA 30303-1002, USA

[15] Division of Clinical Epidemiology and Aging Research, German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ), Im Neuenheimer Feld 581, DE 69120 Heidelberg, Germany

[16] Division of Preventive Oncology, German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ) and National Center for Tumor Diseases (NCT), Im Neuenheimer Feld 581, DE 69120, Heidelberg, Germany

[17] German Cancer Consortium (DKTK), Im Neuenheimer Feld 280, Heidelberg, DE 69120, Germany

[18] Dr. Margarete Fischer-Bosch-Institute of Clinical Pharmacology, Auerbachstr. 112, DE 70376, Stuttgart, Germany

[19] University of Tübingen, Geschwister-Scholl-Platz, DE 72074, Tübingen, Germany

[20] Molecular Epidemiology Group, C080, German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ), Im Neuenheimer Feld 580, D-69120, Heidelberg, Germany

[21] Translational Cancer Research Area, University of Eastern Finland, Kuopio, Finland

[22] Institute of Clinical Medicine, Pathology and Forensic Medicine, University of Eastern Finland, PO Box 1627, FI FIN-70211, Kuopio, Finland

[23] Imaging Center, Department of Clinical Pathology, Kuopio University Hospital, Puijonlaaksontie 2, FI-70210, Kuopio, Finland

[24] Vesalius Research Center, VIB, Herestraat 49, box 912, Onderwijs & Navorsing 4, Building 404-24, 3000, Leuven, Belgium

- [25] Laboratory for Translational Genetics, Department of Human Genetics, University of Leuven, Oude Markt 13, 3000, Leuven, Belgium
- [26] Leuven Multidisciplinary Breast Center, Department of Oncology, KU Leuven and Leuven Cancer Institute, University Hospitals Leuven, Herestraat 49 3000, Leuven, Belgium
- [27] Institute for Medical Biometrics and Epidemiology, University Medical Center Hamburg-Eppendorf, Martinistrasse 52, D-20246, Hamburg, Germany
- [28] Department of Cancer Epidemiology, University Cancer Center Hamburg (UCCH), University Medical Center Hamburg-Eppendorf, Martinistrasse 52, D-20246, Hamburg, Germany
- [29] Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology, Mayo Clinic, First Street SW Rochester, MN, 55905, USA
- [30] Cancer Epidemiology & Intelligence Division, Cancer Council Victoria, 615 St Kilda Rd, VIC-3004 Melbourne, Australia
- [31] Centre for Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Melbourne School of Population and Global Health, University of Melbourne, Parkville VIC-3010 Victoria, Australia
- [32] Genomics Center, Centre Hospitalier Universitaire de Québec Research Center, Laval University, 2705 Laurier Boulevard, QC, CAN G1V 4G2, Québec City, Canada
- [33] Department of Medicine, McGill University, 845 Rue Sherbrooke O, QC H3A 0G4, Montréal, Canada
- [34] Division of Clinical Epidemiology, Royal Victoria Hospital, McGill University, 845 Rue Sherbrooke O, QC H3A 0G4, Montréal, Canada
- [35] Usher Institute of Population Health Sciences and Informatics, The University of Edinburgh Medical School, Teviot Place Edinburgh, EH8 9AG, Edinburgh, UK.
- [36] Division of Cancer Epidemiology and Genetics, National Cancer Institute, 9000 Rockville Pike Bethesda MD-20892, USA
- [37] Centre for Cancer Genetic Epidemiology, Department of Public Health and Primary Care, University of Cambridge, Worts Causeway, CB1 8RN, Cambridge, UK
- [38] Department of Electron Microscopy/Molecular Pathology, The Cyprus Institute of Neurology and Genetics, Nicosia 1683, Nicosia, Cyprus
- [39] Department of Medical Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Karolinska Institutet, Nobels väg 12A, PO Box 281, SE-171 77, Stockholm, Sweden
- [40] Sheffield Institute for Nucleic Acids (SInFoNiA), Department of Oncology and Metabolism, University of Sheffield, Beech Hill Road, S10 2RX, Sheffield, UK

[41] Academic Unit of Pathology, Department of Neuroscience, University of Sheffield, Beech Hill Road, S10 2RX, Sheffield, UK

[42] Division of Genetics and Epidemiology, The Institute of Cancer Research, 15 Cotswold Rd, Sutton SM2 5NG, London, UK

[43] Division of Breast Cancer Research, The Institute of Cancer Research, 15 Cotswold Rd, Sutton SM2 5NG, London, UK

[44] Centre for Cancer Genetic Epidemiology, Department of Oncology, University of Cambridge, Worts Causeway, CB1 8RN, Cambridge, UK

[45] Division of Psychosocial Research and Epidemiology, The Netherlands Cancer Institute - Antoni van Leeuwenhoek hospital, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

[46] Research Group Genetic Cancer Epidemiology, University Cancer Center Hamburg (UCCH), University Medical Center Hamburg-Eppendorf, Martinistrasse 52, D-20246, Hamburg, Germany

Corresponding author: Jenny Chang-Claude

Im Neuenheimer Feld 581

69120 Heidelberg

Germany

phone: +49 6221 42-2373

fax: +49 6221 42-2203

## ABSTRACT

Investigating the most likely causal variants identified by fine-mapping analyses may improve the power to detect gene-environment interactions.

We assessed the interplay between 70 SNPs identified by genetic fine-scale mapping of susceptibility loci and 11 epidemiological breast cancer risk factors in relation to breast cancer. Analyses were conducted on up to 58,573 subjects (26,968 cases, 31,605 controls) from the Breast Cancer Association Consortium (BCAC), in one of the largest studies of its kind. Analyses were carried out separately for estrogen receptor positive (ER+) and estrogen receptor negative (ER-) disease. The Bayesian False Discovery Probability (BFDP) was computed to assess the noteworthiness of the results.

Four potential gene-environment interactions were identified as noteworthy (BFDP<0.80) when assuming a true prior interaction probability of 0.01. The strongest interaction result in relation to overall breast cancer risk was found between *CFLAR*-rs7558475 and current smoking ( $OR_{int} = 0.77$ , 95% CI: 0.67-0.88,  $P_{int} = 1.8 \times 10^{-4}$ ). The interaction with the strongest statistical evidence was found between 5q14-rs7707921 and alcohol consumption ( $OR_{int} = 1.36$ , 95% CI: 1.16-1.59,  $P_{int} = 1.9 \times 10^{-5}$ ) in relation to ER-disease risk. The remaining two gene-environment interactions were also identified in relation to ER- breast cancer risk and were found between 3p21-rs6796502 and age at menarche ( $OR_{int} = 1.26$ , 95% CI: 1.12-1.43,  $P_{int} = 1.8 \times 10^{-4}$ ) and between 8q23-rs13267382 and age at first full-term pregnancy ( $OR_{int} = 0.89$ , 95% CI: 0.83-0.95,  $P_{int} = 5.2 \times 10^{-4}$ ).

While these results do not suggest any strong gene-environment interactions, our results may still be useful to inform experimental studies. These may in turn, shed light on the potential interactions observed.

**Novelty and impact:** Our results do not suggest any strong gene-environment interactions between the SNPs identified by fine-mapping and the investigated risk factors.

**Keywords:** breast cancer, SNP, BCAC, gene-environment, interaction

## BACKGROUND

In 1968, MacMahon stated that “In no field are there more complex examples of the gene-environment relationship than in experimental cancer research.”<sup>1</sup> Following his words and the general opinion that genetic and non-genetic risk factors do not give rise to the disease solely by acting on independent pathways, several studies have investigated gene-environment interplay in relation to breast cancer risk. Studies of this type are motivated by the fact that the identification of gene-environment interactions in relation to breast cancer could provide insight into the biological mechanisms underlying the disease, allow the distinction of women at high risk from women at lower risk and improve the accuracy of risk prediction models. However, despite large-scale, international efforts, to date there are few single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) for which the effect on breast carcinogenesis has been found to be modified by an epidemiological risk factor, and only one of these has been replicated<sup>2,3</sup>.

Several breast cancer risk *loci* that were previously identified in genome-wide association studies (GWAS) were recently investigated further by genetic fine-scale mapping in the framework of the Collaborative Oncological Gene-environment Study (COGS) using samples from studies participating in the Breast Cancer Association Consortium (BCAC). The SNPs identified in the fine-mapping studies were further investigated in subsequent functional studies to identify potential causal associations. The consideration of causal variants may improve power to detect gene-environment interplay. However, if no interactions are detected, the weight of evidence against gene-environment interactions for the *locus* in question is strengthened. Additionally, new susceptibility alleles were identified from genotypes generated by imputation using the 1000 Genomes Project reference panel. Therefore, in the present analyses, multiplicative gene-environment interaction in relation to breast cancer risk was assessed between 55 potentially causal as well as 15 newly identified SNP alleles, and the following 11 established epidemiological risk factors: age at menarche, oral contraceptive (OC) use, parity, age at first full-term pregnancy (FTP), number of FTPs, breastfeeding, use of menopausal hormone therapy (MHT), body mass index (BMI), adult height, smoking and alcohol consumption. We also investigated interactions in relation to estrogen receptor (ER) specific breast cancer risk since the different disease subtypes may arise through different pathways. The analyses reported in this paper are based on the largest, currently available dataset with genetic data and extensive epidemiological information.



## METHODS

### Study subjects

Data on subjects of European descent derived from 21 studies participating in the BCAC were pooled. A brief description of each study can be found in Supplementary Table 1. There were 12 population-based and 9 non-population based studies, each contributing at least 200 cases and 200 controls with available SNP data and information on at least one epidemiological risk factor. Subjects were excluded from the gene-environment interaction analyses if they were male, of non-European origin, a prevalent case or had missing data on age at diagnosis or age at interview, the epidemiological risk factor in question or any of the adjustment variables. Hence, the number of study subjects for each SNP-risk factor pair varied with the availability of epidemiological data. Analyses were based on between 11,342 subjects (5,445 cases, 5,897 controls) for effect modification by alcohol consumption, and 58,573 subjects (26,968 cases, 31,605 controls) for effect modification by number of FTPs. The set of study subjects that were included in at least one gene-environment interaction model comprised 30,000 cases and 34,501 controls. All studies were approved by the relevant ethics committees and informed consent was obtained from all participants.

### SNP selection and genotyping

Genotyping was carried out using an Illumina iSelect array (iCOGS) in the framework of the COGS project ([www.nature.com/icogs](http://www.nature.com/icogs)). With the aim of detecting causal variants, a number of *loci* known to confer breast cancer risk at the time of the design of the iCOGS array were further investigated using fine scale genetic mapping. To improve SNP density, imputation of the respective regions was performed using the March 2012 release of the 1000 Genomes as reference panel. The functional follow-up work was not carried out centrally for all regions but divided between the different working groups of BCAC and thus the methods employed varied somewhat<sup>4-17</sup>. In addition, imputed genotypes for 15 new susceptibility loci identified through a meta-analysis of 11 GWAS with genotypes SNPs generated by imputation using the 1000 Genomes Project March 2012 release as the reference panel were employed<sup>5</sup>. A list of the 70 SNPs included in the analyses for the present report can be found in Supplementary Table 2.

### **Data filtering**

Data from the participating studies were centrally cleaned and harmonized. The information on epidemiological factors was collected at date of reference. In the case-control studies this was defined as the date of diagnosis for cases and the date of questionnaire for controls, and in the three cohort studies (CPSII, MCCS, UKBGS) information at baseline was used, unless follow-up information was available. Women who were 54 years or younger at reference were considered pre-menopausal and women who were older than 54 years at reference were considered postmenopausal. Subjects who were smokers within one year prior to reference date or used MHT within 6 months prior to reference date were considered to be current smokers and current MHT users. For the case-control studies, BMI was calculated using usual adult weight or weight one year prior to reference (ABCFS, CECILE, GENICA, kConFab, KBCP, MARIE, MCBSC, OFBCR, PBCS, SASBAC), or weight around the age of 20 years (ESTHER, pKARMA, SEARCH). For the cohort studies (CPSII, MCCS, UKBGS), BMI was calculated using information from baseline or the latest available questionnaire prior to diagnosis, if available.

### **Statistical analysis**

Association analyses of SNP alleles and breast cancer risk were carried out using logistic regression models adjusted for age at reference, study and ethnicity. In all models used in the present study, genotyped SNPs were treated as ordinal variables (counts of minor alleles) and imputed SNPs as continuous variables.

The main effects of the epidemiological risk factors were also investigated using logistic regression models adjusted for reference age, study and self-assessed ethnicity. Heterogeneity across studies was explored by means of Cochrane's Q-test. The epidemiological variables used in the present analyses were categorized as follows: age at menarche (per 2 years), ever use of OC (yes or no), ever parous (yes or no), number of FTPs among parous women (1,2,3, and  $\geq 4$  FTPs), ever breastfed (yes or no), age at first FTP (per 5 years), adult BMI for pre- and postmenopausal women respectively (per 5 kg/m<sup>2</sup>), adult height (per 5 cm), current use of MHT in the form of estrogen and progesterone or estrogen only (yes or no), lifetime average alcohol intake (per 10g/day), current smoking (yes or no) and pack-years of smoking (per 10 pack-years).

Multiplicative gene-environment interaction was assessed by comparing logistic regression models with and without SNP-risk factor interaction terms by means of the

likelihood ratio test. All models on which the present study is based were adjusted for study, reference age and ethnicity, so as to capture genetic population sub structure. An interaction term between the epidemiological variable and an indicator for population based study design was included to protect against bias due to the differing selection of study participants in non-population based *versus* population-based studies. Interactions of SNPs and epidemiological risk factors were also investigated in relation to estrogen receptor (ER) specific (ER+ or ER-) breast cancer risk, using cases and controls. Furthermore, potentially differential gene-environment interaction according to ER status was assessed in case-only analyses comparing ER- cases to ER+ cases. The ER-specific models and the case-only analyses were adjusted in the same way as the interaction models for overall breast cancer risk. In order to elucidate the results of the interaction analyses, risk association between SNPs and breast cancer was investigated by stratifying on the epidemiological variables.

MHT was sub-divided into estrogen only and combined (estrogen plus progestogen) therapy and investigated in relation to breast cancer risk using only post-menopausal women. All statistical models involving MHT use were further adjusted for former MHT use and current use of the MHT preparation (estrogen only or combined) not included in the interaction term. Additionally, interactions of SNPs and BMI among postmenopausal women were assessed in never- and former users of MHT only. All risk analyses were carried out using SAS 9.2.

Between-study heterogeneity of the interaction odds ratio (OR) estimates was investigated using Cochrane's Q-test and quantified by the ratio of true heterogeneity to the total observed variation, denoted  $I^2$ . Heterogeneity was investigated for SNP-risk factor pairs with an interaction p-value below the Bonferroni corrected threshold of statistical significance for genetic main effects, computed by dividing the standard threshold of 0.05 by the number of SNPs ( $0.05/70 > 7 \times 10^{-4}$ ). Interaction ORs were tested for heterogeneity across studies on basis of interaction p-values in models of overall or ER specific breast cancer risk, although the latter on the condition that a heterogeneity P-value  $< 0.05$  of ER+ *versus* ER- disease had been observed. Heterogeneity tests were conducted using the R package "rmeta" (version 2.2).

The Bayesian False Discovery Probability (BFDP) was computed in order to control the number of false-positive findings and assess the noteworthiness of the results<sup>18</sup>. The cut-off for noteworthiness is based on the ratio of the cost of a false non-discovery to the cost of a false discovery. As suggested in the literature, we set the cost of failing to discover a true association to four times the cost of a falsely reported one, classifying results with a

BFDP $<0.8$  as noteworthy. The BFDP was calculated for all SNP-risk factor pairs with an interaction P-value below the Bonferroni-corrected threshold given above ( $P<7\times 10^{-4}$ ). The BFDP was computed for two different prior probabilities of this (0.01, 0.001), under the assumption that the probability of observing a true interaction OR inside the interval 0.66-1.5 was 95%. As a complementary measure to the BFDP, we also computed the Approximated Bayes Factor (AFP), which approximates the ratio of the probability of the data given that the null hypothesis is true, to the probability of the data given that the alternative hypothesis is true. The null hypothesis in this case is that the coefficient of the interaction term in the logistic regression model is equal to zero.

## RESULTS

The studies included in the gene-environment interaction analyses are listed in Table 1 together with the number of cases and controls, overall and by ER status. The median time between questionnaire and diagnosis was 3 years in the MCCS cohort, 2 years in the UKBGS cohort and 7 years in the CPSII cohort.

The associations between SNP alleles and breast cancer risk in the subset of BCAC studies with risk factor data available were consistent with earlier reports and can be found in Supplementary Table 3<sup>4-14</sup>.

Main effects of the epidemiological variables on breast cancer risk across studies are presented in Supplementary Figure 1. These analyses were carried out using only population-based studies and the results were consistent with what has been reported earlier in the literature<sup>3, 19-30</sup>. Current use of OC, MHT use (E only, as well as E+P), alcohol consumption, height, as well as never having breastfed (*versus* ever having breastfed) were all factors that showed an increased risk of breast cancer. A reduction in risk was observed for older age at menarche, ever being parous, number of FTPs and high BMI among pre-menopausal women. For current smoking and pack-years of smoking, no significant association with breast cancer risk was detected.

The complete results from the interaction analyses, showing the risk association between SNPs and breast cancer across categories of the epidemiological variables, are presented in Supplementary Table 4. We identified four SNP-risk factor pairs with at least one interaction P-value  $<7\times 10^{-4}$  in relation to overall, ER+ or ER- breast cancer risk, as presented in Table 2. All of these interactions were classified as noteworthy (BFDP $<0.8$ ) assuming a prior probability of true interaction of 0.01 but no result remained noteworthy at the 0.001 level (Table 3).



First evidence of an interaction in relation to overall disease risk was noted between the variant *CFLAR*-rs7558475 and current smoking ( $OR_{int} = 0.77$ , 95% CI: 0.67-0.88,  $P_{int} = 1.8 \times 10^{-4}$ ). This result was considered noteworthy (BFD $P = 0.40$ ) assuming a prior probability of true interaction of 0.01 and the ABF=0.007 indicated that the data were almost 140 times more likely given the alternative hypothesis than given the null. Breast cancer risk was reduced among current smokers carrying the minor allele (G) ( $OR_{per-allele} = 0.76$ , 95% CI: 0.66-0.88,  $P = 2.2 \times 10^{-4}$ ) compared to that of non-smoker carriers ( $OR_{per-allele} = 0.99$ , 95% CI: 0.91-1.08,  $P = 0.9$ ) where no risk association was observed. When comparing ER- cases to ER+ cases, the results did not indicate any effect heterogeneity ( $P_{het} = 0.48$ ). There was no strong evidence of interaction, neither with respect to ER+ risk ( $P_{int} = 0.0014$ ) nor with respect to ER- risk ( $P_{int} = 0.75$ ).

The most promising result of the gene-environment interaction analyses in terms of noteworthiness, was considered noteworthy at the 0.01 probability level and was noted between the variant 5q14-rs7707921 located in an intron of the autophagy related 10 (*ATG10*) gene, and alcohol consumption ( $OR_{int} = 1.36$ , 95% CI: 1.16-1.59,  $P_{int} = 1.9 \times 10^{-5}$ ) in relation to ER- breast cancer. This result had the lowest BFD $P = 0.33$ , and conditioning on the alternative, the data were about 200 times more likely as compared to conditioning on the null (ABF=0.005). Carriers of the minor allele (T) of rs7707921 had an increased risk of ER-breast cancer if they consumed more than 20g of alcohol per day ( $OR_{per-allele} = 2.56$ , 95% CI: 1.45-4.62,  $P = 0.001$ ) but not if they consumed less than 20 g of alcohol per day ( $OR_{per-allele} = 1.07$ , 95% CI: 0.92-1.24,  $P = 0.36$ ). A strong effect heterogeneity was detected when comparing ER- cases to ER+ cases ( $P_{het} = 6.7 \times 10^{-6}$ ). Together with the absence of interaction in relation to ER+ disease ( $P_{int} = 0.79$ ) and overall breast cancer risk ( $P_{int} = 0.70$ ), this indicated that the interaction might be specific to ER- disease.

In addition, indications of two further interactions were noted in relation to ER-disease risk. One of these was between 3p21-rs6796502 and age at menarche ( $OR_{int} = 1.26$ , 95% CI: 1.12-1.43,  $P_{int} = 1.8 \times 10^{-4}$ ) which had BFD $P = 0.49$ , and of which the ABF (ABF=0.010) implied that the data were 100 times more likely under the alternative hypothesis than under the null. Carriers of the minor allele (A) of 3p21-rs6796502 who experienced their menarche no later than the age of 11 years had a reduced risk of ER- breast cancer ( $OR_{per-allele} = 0.70$ , 95% CI: 0.54-0.90,  $P = 0.006$ ), whereas there was no association with disease risk of the genetic variant for women who had their menarche between the age of 12 and 13 years ( $OR_{per-allele} = 0.88$ , 95% CI: 0.76-1.02,  $P = 0.08$ ), or after the age of 14 years ( $OR_{per-allele} = 1.16$ , 95% CI: 0.99-1.34,  $P = 0.06$ ). While the observed interaction was in relation

to ER- disease risk, no effect heterogeneity was detected when comparing ER- and ER+ cases ( $P_{\text{het}}=0.53$ ) nor was there any indication of any interaction in relation to overall breast cancer risk ( $P_{\text{int}}=0.94$ ). Hence, it is not possible to conclude that the observed interaction is specific for ER- disease.

Finally, an indication of a gene-environment interaction was found between 8q23-rs13267382 and age at first FTP ( $OR_{\text{int}}=0.89$ , 95% CI: 0.83-0.95,  $P_{\text{int}}=5.2\times 10^{-4}$ ) in relation to ER- disease risk. This interaction had BFDP=0.61 assuming a true, prior interaction probability of 0.01, and ABF=0.016, indicating that the data are about 60 times more likely conditioning on the alternative than on the null. There was no interaction observed in relation to disease risk, when considering ER+ breast cancer ( $P_{\text{int}}=0.98$ ), or overall breast disease risk ( $P_{\text{int}}=0.47$ ), and no effect heterogeneity was found when comparing the risk of ER- and ER+ breast cancer ( $P_{\text{het}}=0.99$ ). Our findings indicated a modest reduction in ER- breast cancer risk among minor allele (A) carriers who were aged 30 or above at their first FTP ( $OR_{\text{per-allele}}=0.79$ , 95% CI: 0.68-0.91,  $P=0.001$ ), whereas for women who had their first child at younger ages the allele had no effect on risk.

## DISCUSSION

From the analyses presented in this work, four SNP-risk factor pairs were identified, for which  $P_{\text{int}} < 7\times 10^{-4}$ , and all of the interactions were considered noteworthy (BFDP<0.8) assuming a true prior interaction probability of 0.01. One of the results was detected in relation to overall breast cancer risk, while the three remaining results appeared to be specific for ER- disease.

The strongest gene-environment interaction in relation to overall breast cancer risk was noted between rs7558475 located in the *CASP8* and *FADD* like apoptosis regulator (*CFLAR*) gene and current smoking ( $P_{\text{int}}=1.8\times 10^{-4}$ ). The protein product of *CFLAR* regulates apoptosis, thus it is possible that *CFLAR* genetic variants affect response to DNA damage caused by tobacco associated carcinogens and therefore modify breast cancer risk conferred by smoking. However, although rs7558475 is located in a *CFLAR* enhancer region, reports from recent functional studies and expression quantitative trait locus (eQTL) analyses did not provide any convincing evidence regarding functionality<sup>6,31</sup>. Hence, further work is required to understand possible biological mechanism related to the observed interaction.

The strongest statistical evidence of interaction was found in relation to ER- breast cancer risk and was noted between an intron variant 5q14-rs7707921 in the autophagy related

10 (*ATG10*) gene, and alcohol consumption ( $P_{\text{int}}=1.9\times 10^{-5}$ ). Autophagy, which is considered a survival mechanism of the cell, may act as a tumor suppressor but also influence cell survival by promoting tumor growth, and has been suggested as a target in cancer therapy<sup>32</sup>. It has been reported that autophagy could have a protective effect on esophageal epithelial cells responding to ethanol-induced oxidative stress<sup>33</sup>. Also, while ethanol promotes oxidative stress in cancer associated fibroblasts, it has been reported to induce autophagy resistance in epithelial cells<sup>34</sup>. Given the above information, it is conceivable that alcohol consumption could influence the effect on breast cancer risk of an autophagy related polymorphism. However the biological mechanism needs to be further investigated. The position of the variant *ATG10*-rs7707921 does not coincide with any strong regulatory elements. The eQTL analyses carried out within the framework of BCAC showed a strong association between the T allele of rs7707921 and expression of the ribosomal protein S23 gene (*RPS23*) in breast tissue as well as a moderate association between the allele and expression of the ATPase, H<sup>+</sup> transporting, lysosomal accessory protein 1-like (*ATP6AP1L*) gene<sup>5</sup>. The *RPS23* gene encodes a ribosomal protein and the *ATP6AP1L* is also protein coding but the genes have not yet been implicated in ER- breast cancer risk and their expression levels have not been assessed in relation to alcohol consumption or oxidative stress. Further work is thus needed to understand how the protein products of these genes could interact with alcohol consumption to modify the risk association of rs7707921 with ER- breast cancer.

Furthermore, we found an indication of a possible interaction between 3p21-rs6796502 and age at menarche ( $P_{\text{int}}=1.8\times 10^{-4}$ ) in relation to ER- breast cancer. Our results suggest that the reduced risk of ER- breast tumors among carriers of the A-allele are modified for women with late age at menarche  $\geq 14$  years. However, according to a recent functional study, the SNP is not located in the vicinity of any genes or enhancer regions in mammary cell lines, nor are there any significant results available from eQTL analyses<sup>5</sup>. In addition, no significant effect heterogeneity was found when comparing the interaction between ER- and ER+ cases to support that the result could to be specific to ER- disease. It is thus necessary to first confirm this interaction with further data before attempting any biological explanation.

The interaction observed between the intron variant 8q23-rs13267382 of the long intergenic non protein coding RNA 536 gene (*LINC00536*) and age at first FTP ( $P_{\text{int}}=2.6\times 10^{-4}$ ) suggests that the variant is associated with a reduced risk of ER- breast cancer with older age at first FTP, whereby the association was statistically significant for women who were at least 30 years of age at their first FTP. Overall, this variant was not reported to be associated

with ER- disease risk <sup>5</sup>, which is confirmed in the current report. Neither this SNP nor any variants in high linkage disequilibrium with it are positioned in the vicinity of any regulatory genomic feature. As for the interaction with 3p21-rs6796502, there was not clear evidence for this interaction to be specific to ER- disease. Therefore, further data are required to confirm this interaction.

The present work is subject to a number of limitations. First, despite central harmonization of the data, substantial heterogeneity was observed in the risk estimates of the epidemiological risk factors across studies, which brought about the inclusion of a product term of study design and epidemiological variable in the interaction models, and the quantification of epidemiological main effects based on the population based studies. Second, the study population consisted predominantly of case-control studies (only three cohort studies), which are known to be prone to selection bias and recall bias, as well as associated misclassification of risk factors. However, gene-environment interaction estimates were similar in the overall study population compared to the subset of population based studies (data not shown). Misclassification of epidemiological risk factors is known to reduce the power to detect interactions, rather than increasing the probability of false-positive findings <sup>35</sup>. Hence, the present study is more likely to be subject to limited power than to spurious gene-environment interactions. Also, our findings are based on study participants of Caucasian origin so that they may not be generalizable to other populations. For the ER specific risk analyses, in particular in the subgroup of ER- cases (N=4,662), the power was diminished due to the reduced sample size.

However, the present study also has several strengths. To begin with, the interaction analyses are based on the largest dataset presently available. The four indicated interactions were based on 11,337 subjects (5,385 cases, 5,952 controls) in analyses with respect to alcohol consumption, and 19,427 subjects (9,073 cases, 10,354 controls) for current smoking, as well as 43,513 subjects (20,147 cases, 23,366 controls) in the analyses of age at menarche and 37,819 subjects (17,382 cases, 20,508 controls) in the analyses of age at first FTP.

Taken together, the results presented in this report are not in line with the existence of strong modification of the allelic effects on breast cancer risk by the epidemiological risk factors investigated. However, the results presented in this report contribute to the global body of knowledge on gene-environment interactions by generating hypotheses, thereby providing guidance for future functional studies and large scale replication studies.



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Table 1. Participating studies

Study	Full study name	Study design	Country	Cases			Controls
				all	ER-	ER+	
ABCFS	Australian Breast Cancer Family Study	Population-based	Australia	790	261	456	551
ABCS	Amsterdam Breast Cancer Study	Mixed	Netherlands	1245	292	800	1177
BBCC	Bavarian Breast Cancer Cases and Controls	Mixed	Germany	553	86	456	457
BREOGAN	Breast Oncology Galicia Network	Mixed	Spain	1561	329	1251	1423
CECILE	CECILE Breast cancer Study	Population-based	France	900	128	751	999
CGPS	Copenhagen General Population Study	Mixed	Denmark	2209	269	1592	4506
CPSII	Cancer Prevention Study II	Population-based	USA	1655	35	1205	1940
ESTHER	ESTHER Breast Cancer Study	Population-based	Germany	471	98	302	502
GENICA	Gene-Environment Interaction and Breast Cancer in Germany	Population-based	Germany	456	114	333	427
KBCP	Kuopio Breast Cancer Project	Population-based	Finland	411	93	303	251
LMBC	Leuven Multidisciplinary Breast Centre	Mixed	Belgium	2424	378	2069	1045
MARIE	Mammary Carcinoma Risk Factor Investigation	Population-based	Germany	1656	371	1278	1778
MCBCS	Mayo Clinic Breast Cancer Study	Mixed	USA	1554	254	1295	1893
MCCS	Melbourne Collaborative Cohort Study	Population-based	Australia	478	117	343	490
MTLGBCS	Montreal Gene-Environment Breast Cancer Study	Population-based	Canada	489	64	421	436
PBCS	NCI Polish Breast Cancer Study	Population-based	Poland	519		519	424
pKARMA	Karolinska Mammography Project for Risk Prediction of Breast Cancer-prevalent cases	Mixed	Sweden	2822	410	2328	5469
SASBAC	Singapore and Sweden Breast Cancer Study	Population-based	Sweden	1163	144	663	1378
SBCS	Sheffield Breast Cancer Study	Mixed	UK	751	107	367	848
SEARCH	Study of Epidemiology and Risk Factors in Cancer Heredity	Mixed	UK	7478	1119	5371	8050
UKBGS	UK Breakthrough Generations Study	Population-based	UK	415	47	231	457
TOTAL				30000	4716	22334	34501

Table 2. SNP-risk factor pairs with interaction P-values  $<7 \times 10^{-4}$ , overall and by ER status across categories of epidemiological risk factors

SNP / Risk Factor	stratum	cases/controls	overall		ER+		ER-		$P_{\text{case-only}}$
			OR (95% CI)	$P_{\text{interaction}}$	OR (95% CI)	$P_{\text{interaction}}$	OR (95% CI)	$P_{\text{interaction}}$	
<i>CFLAR</i> -rs7558475 / current smoking	no	7698/8835	0.99 (0.91-1.08)	$1.8 \times 10^{-4}$	1.00 (0.91-1.09)	0.0014	0.96 (0.81-1.14)	0.75	0.48
	yes	1375/1519	0.76 (0.66-0.88)		0.78 (0.66-0.91)		0.91 (0.63-1.31)		
	all	9073/10354	0.96 (0.88-1.04)		0.96 (0.88-1.05)		0.96 (0.82-1.12)		
5q14-rs7707921 / alcohol consumption	<20g/day	4904/5411	1.16 (1.08-1.24)	0.70	1.18 (1.10-1.27)	0.79	1.07 (0.92-1.24)	$1.9 \times 10^{-5}$	$6.7 \times 10^{-6}$
	$\geq 20$ g/day	481/541	1.16 (0.94-1.43)		1.08 (0.86-1.36)		2.59 (1.45-4.62)		
	all	5385/5952	1.16 (1.09-1.23)		1.17 (1.09-1.25)		1.15 (0.99-1.32)		
3p21-rs6796502 / age at menarche	$\leq 11$ years	3350/3609	0.73 (0.65-0.83)	0.94	0.75 (0.65-0.86)	0.73	0.70 (0.54-0.90)	$1.8 \times 10^{-4}$	0.53
	12-13 years	9503/10893	0.93 (0.86-0.99)		0.93 (0.86-1.00)		0.88 (0.76-1.02)		
	$\geq 14$ years	7294/8864	0.95 (0.88-1.03)		0.92 (0.84-1.01)		1.16 (0.99-1.34)		
	all	20147/23366	0.90 (0.86-0.95)		0.89 (0.85-0.94)		0.94 (0.86-1.04)		
8q23-rs13267382 / age at first FTP	<20 years	2085/1830	1.01 (0.92-1.11)	0.47	1.00 (0.90-1.11)	0.98	1.12 (0.94-1.33)	$5.2 \times 10^{-4}$	0.99
	20-24 years	6944/8246	0.92 (0.88-0.97)		0.91 (0.86-0.96)		1.00 (0.91-1.11)		
	25-29 years	5388/6877	0.97 (0.92-1.02)		0.98 (0.92-1.03)		0.91 (0.81-1.02)		
	$\geq 30$ years	2965/3555	0.92 (0.85-0.99)		0.94 (0.87-1.02)		0.79 (0.68-0.91)		
	all	17382/20508	0.94 (0.92-0.97)		0.95 (0.91-0.98)		0.95 (0.89-1.01)		

Table 3. Bayesian False Discovery Probabilities (BFDP) for SNP-risk factor pairs with interaction P-values  $<7 \times 10^{-4}$

Breast Cancer Subtype	SNP / Risk factor	OR <sub>interaction</sub> (95%CI)	BFDP <sup>1</sup> , prior probability of true interaction		ABF <sup>2</sup>
			0.01	0.001	
Overall	<i>CFLAR</i> -rs7558475 / current smoking	0.77 (0.67-0.88)	0.40	0.87	0.007
ER-	5q14-rs7707921 / alcohol	1.36 (1.16-1.59)	0.33	0.83	0.005
ER-	3p21-rs6796502 / age at menarche	1.26 (1.12-1.43)	0.49	0.91	0.010
ER-	8q23-rs13267382 / age at first FTP	0.89 (0.83-0.95)	0.61	0.94	0.016

<sup>1</sup>The BFDP was calculated assuming that the true interaction OR is between 0.66 and 1.50

<sup>2</sup>Approximated Bayes Factor (ABF) is an approximation of the rate of the probability of the data given the null to the probability of the data given the alternative hypothesis.